



NEWS

RELEASE

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SBA SPONSORS E-BUSINESS TELECONFERENCES FOR NEW AND GROWING SMALL BUSINESSES

WASHINGTON – Small businesses will be able to participate in free, virtual conferences in real-time via the Internet through a co-sponsorship agreement between the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and Great Plains, a leading provider of e-business solutions that interconnect business communities, it was announced today.

The sessions, aimed at helping owners to “Jump Start Business Success,” will be held on February 20, at 11 a.m. EST and on February 22, at 3 p.m. EST. E-business and program experts from SBA and Great Plains will outline steps small businesses should consider when venturing into today’s new commerce. A concurrent chat-room will respond to questions.

Small businesses can register to attend the Internet conference at www.greatplains.com/sba. Participants will learn about developing an effective growth management system, see real-time demonstrations of the latest business management software, and see how e-business techniques can apply to specific situations.

To meet the challenges of a new economy and to reach more small businesses and their needs, the SBA is offering more and more of its services through the Internet. The agency also provides an online classroom at www.sba.gov/classroom/ where small businesses can take courses via the Internet. The course topics range from how to write a business plan to using e-commerce in business.

Last year, more than one million business owners contacted the SBA for assistance on technical, financial and management needs. SBA offices are located throughout the United States and include Business Information Centers, Tribal Business Information Centers, One-Stop Capital Shops, Women’s Business Centers, Small Business Development Centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives. Each provides different levels of assistance to small business owners. Participating SBA offices will collaborate with designated Great Plains partners to provide additional educational and training activities for SBA clients.

The SBA website receives more than 10 million hits a week and offers a wide range of products and services.

For more information about all of SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640. Also visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov

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